12. (Amended) A method of controlling charge accumulation of a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements each of which is constructed by a plurality of pixels, comprising:

the control step of reading out respective control information from a plurality of memories each of which is corresponding to respective one of said photoelectric conversion elements, and respectively controlling the charge accumulation of each of said photoelectric conversion elements on the basis of respective control information.

REMARKS

Claims 1-58 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 5, 15-17 and 23-58 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12. A marked-up copy of the amended claims showing deletions and additions using brackets and underlining, respectively, is attached hereto as an appendix. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claims 1-3, 6-14 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,943,514 to Sato et al. ("Sato"). Claims 1 and 12 are independent.

Applicant's invention, as defined by amended claims 1 and 12, is characterized in that a different storage means or memory is provided to each of the photoelectric conversion elements and each of the photoelectric conversion elements is controlled on the basis of a signal outputted from the respective storage means or memory. By virtue of this structure, the accumulation control of the photoelectric conversion elements is performed efficiently.

In contrast, in Sano, photo electric conversion elements cannot be controlled efficiently, because the apparatus disclosed therein has only one register for a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements. Thus, the above-feature of Applicant's invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Sano.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 12, as amended, are not anticipated by Sano. In addition, the other references cited by the Examiner also do not disclose the above-feature of Applicant's invention.

Dependent Claims:

Applicant does not believe it necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicant believes that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4478. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for

an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4478. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: March 18, 2003 By: _____
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APPENDIX

1. (Amended) A photoelectric conversion device comprising:

photoelectric conversion means including a plurality of photoelectric conversion [element constructed] elements each of which is constructed by a plurality of pixels on a semiconductor substrate; and [storage means for storing predetermined control information arranged on the same semiconductor substrate] a plurality of storage means arranged on the same semiconductor substrate, each for storing predetermined control information for controlling corresponding photoelectric conversion element.

12. (Amended) A method of controlling charge accumulation of a plurality of photoelectric conversion [element constructed] elements each of which is constructed by a plurality of pixels, comprising:

the control step of reading out respective control information from a [memory] plurality of memories each of which is corresponding to respective one of said photoelectric conversion [element] elements, and respectively controlling the charge accumulation of each of said photoelectric conversion [element] elements on the basis of [the] respective control information.